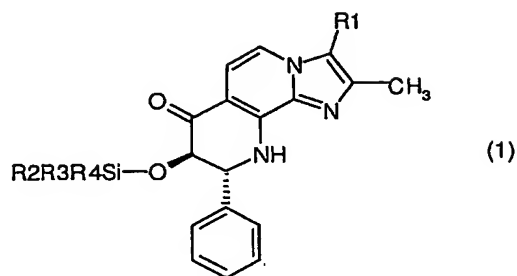


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**Claims**

1. Process for the production of compounds of formula 1,



in which

R1 is hydrogen, methyl or hydroxymethyl,

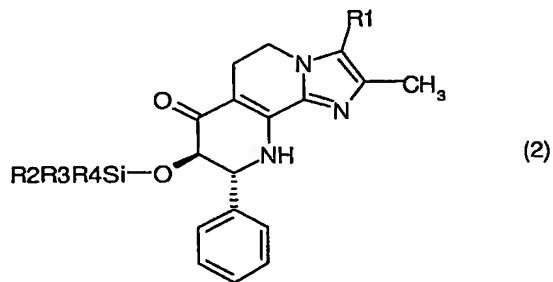
R2 is 1-7C-alkyl,

R3 is 1-7C-alkyl and

R4 is 1-7C-alkyl,

and their salts,

which comprises dehydrogenating (oxidizing) compounds of formula 2,



in which R1, R2, R3 and R4 have the meanings given above, by using NBS (N-bromosuccinimide).

2. Process as claimed in claim 1, for the production of compounds of formula 1, in which

R1 is methyl,

R2 is bromine,

R3 is 1-7C-alkyl,

R4 is 1-4C-alkyl and

R4 is 1-4C-alkyl.

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3. Process as claimed in claim 1, for the production of compounds of formula 1, in which

R1 is methyl,

R2 is bromine,

R2 is tert-butyl,

R3 is methyl and

R4 is methyl.

4. Process as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the amount of NBS used is approximately 1 equivalent, calculated on the basis of the amount of the compound of formula 2 used.

5. Process as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that subsequent to the reaction with NBS an organic base is used for the removal of HBr.

6. Process as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that subsequent to the reaction with NBS an organic amine is used for the removal of HBr.

7. Process as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that subsequent to the reaction with NBS triethylamine is used for the removal of HBr.

8. Process as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the reaction is effected at a temperature of -70°C to +50°C.

9. Process as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the reaction is effected at a temperature of 0°C to +30°C.

10. Process as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the reaction is effected in an inert organic solvent.